

Lawrence Free Public Library
Lawrence, Kansas

To the Honorable Mayor and the Council of the City of
Lawrence, Kansas.

Gentlemen:

We herewith respectfully submit the forty-fifth annual
report of the Board of Directors of the Lawrence Free Public
Library for the year ending December 31, 1949.

MAINTENANCE FUND

Balance
Receipts

\$ 842.95
16,466.29

Library Maintenance

Salaries	\$ 9,552.80
Books	1,192.39
Periodicals	329.05
Binding	298.71
Library supplies	510.87

Building Maintenance

Janitor's salary	\$ 1,541.10	
Building supplies	54.87	
Repairs and equipment	1,462.24	
Utilities	836.76	
Insurance	568.94	
Other items	102.27	
Balance	859.24	
	<u>\$ 17,309.24</u>	\$ 17,309.24

DUPLICATE PAY COLLECTION FUND

Balance		\$ 1,572.28
Receipts		1,293.17
Warrants	\$ 2,122.04	
Balance	843.41	
	<u>\$ 2,965.45</u>	\$ 2,965.45

Lawrence Free Public Library
Lawrence, Kansas

L. H. PERKINS MEMORIAL FUND

Balance		\$	29.32
Receipts	\$	11.32	25.00
Warrants		43.00	
Balance	\$	<u>54.32</u>	<u>54.32</u>

VIRGINIA S. EDWARDS MEMORIAL FUND

Balance		\$	59.98
Receipts	\$	1,025.12	1,032.50
Warrants		67.36	
Balance	\$	<u>1,092.48</u>	<u>1,092.48</u>

GURDON GROVENOR MEMORIAL FUND

Balance		\$	112.45
Receipts	\$	35.24	50.00
Warrants		127.21	
Balance	\$	<u>162.45</u>	<u>162.45</u>

MAY MOORE MEMORIAL FUND

Balance		\$	50.97
Receipts	\$	74.00	50.00
Warrants		26.97	
Balance	\$	<u>100.97</u>	<u>100.97</u>

JANE WELCH MEMORIAL FUND

Balance		\$	59.74
Receipts	\$	1,037.31	1,032.50
Warrants		54.93	
Balance	\$	<u>1,092.24</u>	<u>1,092.24</u>

ALL FUNDS

Balance		\$	2,827.69
Receipts	\$	20,755.03	19,949.46
Warrants		2,022.12	
Balance	\$	<u>22,777.15</u>	<u>22,777.15</u>

All of which is respectfully submitted,

President

Secretary

Lawrence Free Public Library

Lawrence, Kansas

To the Board of Directors of the Lawrence Free Public Library.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a pleasure to submit to you the forty-fifth annual report for the year ending December 31, 1949.

The library has been open for reading and for the circulation of books 305 days, eleven hours each day, closing on the usual legal holidays.

CIRCULATION

Adult fiction	47,086
Adult non-fiction	20,202
Juvenile fiction	27,513
Juvenile non-fiction	7,204
Total	<u>102,005</u> 102,105

NON-FICTION BY CLASSES

General works	1,171
Philosophy	899
Religion	914
Social sciences	2,933
Philology	175
Science	1,809
Useful arts	3,312
Fine arts	3,552
Literature	4,039
History	2,166
Biography	4,291
Travel	1,973
Pamphlets	122
Total	<u>27,406</u>

REGISTRATIONS

	Active 12/31/48	Added 1949	Withdrawn 1949	Active 12/31/49
Three year period				
Adult	3,799	1,141	1,907	3,033
Juvenile	2,136	1,070	2,059	1,147
One year or less				
Student	1,094	1,025	1,093	1,026
County	110	106	75	141
Rural students	45	38	52	31
Total	<u>7,184</u>	<u>3,380</u>	<u>5,186</u>	<u>5,378</u>

BOOK STOCK

	Adult	Juvenile	Total
Dec. 31, 1948	31,024	7,928	38,952
Added 1949	1,164	825	1,989
Withdrawn 1949	671	448	1,119
Total Dec. 31, 1949	<u>31,517</u>	<u>8,305</u>	<u>39,822</u>
Gifts included above	230	115	345

PERIODICALS

Number of magazines currently received	128
Number of newspapers currently received	9
Total	<u>137</u>

Lawrence Free Public Library

Lawrence, Kansas

This is the annual report for the year 1949, or forty-five years of Lawrence library service organized under Kansas state law, and eighty-four years of continuous operation. It is also a reminder of the founding of the community's first library ninety-five years ago.

A short review of the library movement of our city will show the debt owed by the community to the generosity and foresight of its citizens, past and present.

The early settlers of Lawrence brought the culture of their native New England with them, when in 1854 just two months after first arriving, they held a meeting to establish an athenium for weekly lectures, discussions and essays, and for the procuring of a library. They formed a literary association and called it the Kansas Athenium, and supported it by membership dues. A gift of books from Mr. Amos Lawrence and Mrs. Mary Webb to the library was noted in the Herald of Freedom on January 27, 1855, along with the promise, that "...a large addition to those already received will be sent on to this city early in the Spring, when navigation opens". The disbanding of this organization is hidden in the obscurity of time, but it was probably brought about by the burning of Lawrence in 1855.

The present library can be traced directly to J.S. Boughton, who established a circulating library in 1865 on a subscription basis. Evidently Mr. Boughton did not find his library a paying proposition, for one year later a meeting was called in the library rooms and a group of citizens formed a library association to carry on the good work, paying the former owner for his interest. This association sponsored theatricals, socials, excursions and festivals of all kinds, accepted donations and even rented a chess set at 25¢ a session in order to finance the library. Five years later another change was made when the city took over the responsibility of the library, but with no provision of tax money for its support, the librarian's salary was still dependent upon the dollar a year charged each patron for the use of the books.

The first permanent librarian was Mrs. Helen Griswold, who was hired in 1867. She was succeeded through the years by other hard working, self-sacrificing women, including Mrs. Rhoda Trask, Mrs. Mary Simpson, Mrs. Nellie Beatty, Miss Virginia Edwards, and Miss Lillian Constant.

In 1903, Mr. Andrew Carnegie's offer of a \$27,500 grant for a library building brought about the present library organization established under the state library law. Mrs. Charles P. Grovenor donated the present site and the citizens of Lawrence voted to tax themselves to support a free public library.

Until 1903 the library had been supported by the civic-minded people of the community, and now, when the city was enabled to tax for the library's support, it was found that the income from taxes was not enough to provide the high level of service Lawrence demanded. Outside help was still needed and given by interested parties.

The Woodward Family furnished the board room in memory of Brinton Webb Woodward. Mrs. Theo. Poehler contributed a large collection of German classics and a collection of children's books. Mrs. Sarah Robinson gave the library the clock that stands behind the desk on the main floor, while the book case that contains the Kansas Collection was the gift of Governor Robinson and the children of Amos A. Lawrence.

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Mrs. L.H. Perkins furnished steel book stacks and established a book fund of \$1,000 for books on literature. Four other memorial funds were also set up to furnish the library with books and services: the Virginia S. Edwards fund for books on American history and Lincoln biography, the Grovenor fund for reference books and to pay librarians' expenses to library conventions, the May Moore fund for fine editions of children's books, and the Jane Welch fund for good non-fiction.

The library board has always been more than generous with their time and efforts to provide the best in library services for Lawrence. An early board member, Mr. Harry Dick often receipted his bills before presenting them to the library; Dr. Edward Bumgardner designed the book plate used in the gift books and spent much valuable time to catalog thousands of government documents. Mrs. Eleanor Henley was noted for the many considerate things she provided for the librarians' comfort and especially for the delightful room she furnished the children of Lawrence. Throughout the years the board has served its community well and unstintingly, and at no compensation to itself.

This generosity has continued right up to the present. There are many organizations and individuals that present books in memory of loved ones. Prized book collections are willed to the library, current books and valuable editions are donated to supplement present books. Gifts of flowers brighten the library during the growing season and the staff is always cheered by the many greeting cards sent at Christmas by library users.

Such efforts as these have supplied the library with that extra impetus that has meant the difference between the success or failure of one of the most important adult education and recreation centers in our community.

The demand on the library has been increased again in the past year, 12,290 more books were taken out than in 1948, for a total circulation of 102,405 books; 3,380 people registered for library cards, 609 more than the year before. There were 1,989 new books added to the shelves, bringing the collection up to 39,822 volumes. The children's department has been a beehive of activity all year around with class visits to the library (85), Saturday morning story hours (attended by 714 children), and a vigorous Summer Reading Program. The latter was jointly sponsored by the library and the Parent-Teachers Association.

General appearances have not been neglected in the past year. The main lobby has been improved by a new exhibit case and display table on one side and a bulletin board on the other, while the adult reading room has had wall shelving added for the display of current newspapers and magazines. A soft yellow color scheme was used in the redecorating of the children's room, and a large bulletin board was installed to brighten a dark corner.

All of the above improvements and services have been supplied to the citizens of Lawrence at the average cost of only 89¢ per person.

It is with heartfelt appreciation that the librarian takes this opportunity to thank the citizens of Lawrence and especially the Library Board and the Library Staff for their splendid cooperation and support of the library program in the past year. He also hopes that future library service will continue to meet their expectations and will warrant a continuation of the good will shown.

Librarian

Lawrence Free Public Library
Lawrence, Kansas

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I have the honor to report the following receipts and disbursements for the year ending December 31, 1949.

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Treasurer